<u>REMARKS</u>

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 15, 2006. Claims 1-24, 38, 41, 44 and 45 are pending in this application, of which Claims 1, 13, 24, 41 and 45 are in independent form. Claims 1, 13, 24, 41 and 45 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1, 3, 7, 9, 13, 15, 18, 20, 24, 40, 41, 44 and 45 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001-0032218A1 (Huang); and Claims 2, 4-6, 8, 10-12, 14, 16, 17, 19, 21-23, 38 and 42-43 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huang in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,351,317 (Sasaki et al.).

As shown above, Applicant has amended independent Claims 1, 13, 24, 41 and 45 in terms that more clearly define what he regards as his invention. Applicant submits that these amended independent claims, together with the remaining claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

Independent Claim 1 is directed to an image processing apparatus for generating image data of a document by processing document data representing the document and described in a predetermined structured description language. The apparatus comprises analysis means for analyzing the document data and recognizing font size information contained in the document data. The font size information is information on the font size applied to a character or a character train contained in the document represented by the document data. The analysis means also recognizes the character or the character train contained in the document represented by the document data to which the font size information is applied.

The apparatus also comprises instruction input means for entering, via an operation panel, information relating to a standard font size to be used for formatting the document data for printing on at least one print page, and image forming means for

executing an image forming process such that data representing the character or the character train recognized by the analysis means is outputted for printing on the at least one print page on which contents of the document data are laid out at the standard font size entered by the instruction input means instead of the font size represented by the font size information contained in the document data. The apparatus additionally includes printing means for printing data based on print data formed in the image forming process executed by the image forming means. The document data does not include the concept of page.

Among other notable feature of Claim 1 are (1) that the standard font size is entered via an operation panel of the image processing apparatus and (2) image forming means for executing an image forming process such that data representing the character or the character train recognized by the analysis means is outputted for printing on the at least one print page on which contents of the document data are laid out at the standard font size entered by the instruction input means instead of the font size represented by the font size information contained in the document data.

Claim 1 is, thus, directed to the layout of document data on printed page(s). For example, when a structured document, which has no concept of page, is to be laid out on printed page(s), setting of a sheet size, setting of N-up printing and/or changing of various page layout may be performed. These operations may have influence on the output font size. Even if the structured document is successfully displayed, by means of browsers, for example, the application of the document on printed page(s) may result in improper font size. The invention as recited in Claim 1 provides a solution to this problem.

In contrast, Huang is understood to merely relate to a method for producing structured documents with user-defined document type definitions and to provide a document conversion process for converting an unstructured document into a metafile and modifying the metafile in accordance with received document type definitions (paragraphs [0003], [0011], and [0013]). Huang discusses setting a desired font size in displaying

document data. Huang does not even recognize the problem inherent in applying a structured document on printed page(s), as discussed above.

The Office Action cites paragraphs 54, 66 and 67, as disclosing the instruction input means of Claim 1. Applicant disagrees. Paragraph 54 merely discusses, among other things, that a conversion module is used to convert unstructured documents to structured documents and that a counter is used to count the number of pages in the metafile to be converted, and paragraph 66 merely discusses an input module for loading or importing structured or unstructured documents from a document database. Paragraph 67 merely discusses an editing module for creating/editing the structure-based font information for the input documents. In addition, paragraph 67 discusses that the editing module allows selections of data elements for the input documents and provides an editing environment to alter the font attributes based on an association table for the document elements defined in a desired document type definition (DTD) and associated font attributes. However, nothing has been found in Huang that would teach or suggest a "instruction input means for entering, via an operation panel, information relating to a standard font size to be used for formatting the document data for printing on at least one print page," as recited in Claim 1 (emphasis added).

The Office Action cites page 6, and specifically the transformation module, as corresponding to the image forming means of Claim 1. However, the image forming means of Claim 1 is distinguishable from the transformation module in that the transformation module does not execute an image forming process such that data representing the character or the character train recognized by the analysis means is outputted for printing on the at least one print page on which contents of the document data are laid out at the standard font size entered by said instruction input means instead of the font size represented by the font size information contained in the document data. Rather,

the transformation module merely converts loaded documents into structured documents with DTDs using the structure-based font information. Therefore, Huang fails to teach or suggest the "image forming means for executing an image forming process such that data representing the character or the character train recognized by said analysis means is outputted for printing on the at least one print page on which contents of the document data are laid out at the standard font size entered by said instruction input means instead of the font size represented by the font size information contained in the document data" recited in Claim 1 (emphasis added).

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against Claim 1.

Independent Claims 13, 24, 41 and 45 recite features similar to those discussed above with respect to Claim 1 and, therefore, are also believed to be patentable over the cited prior art for the reasons discussed above.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are, therefore, believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

This Amendment After Final Action is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance and its entry is therefore believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Entry of this Amendment After Final Action, as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is respectfully requested to

contact Applicant's undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests early and favorable continued examination of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

/Jennifer A. Reda/
Jennifer A. Reda
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 57,840

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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